AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A garment hanger comprising:

a cross-bar having first and second ends;

a hook member coupled to the cross-bar to permit hanging of the garment hanger;

a first clamp assembly disposed at the first end of the cross bar and a second clamp assembly disposed at the second end of the cross-bar, wherein each of the first and second clamp assemblies includes first and second clamp members that are pivotably coupled to one another and urged toward one another by a biasing element; each of the first and second clamp members having an inner clamp surface that has a pair of locking posts extending outwardly from the inner clamp surface, each locking post having a locking feature formed at a distal end thereof; and

a resilient pad coupled to each inner clamp surface in a removable manner by inserting the locking features of the locking posts into and through complementary openings formed in the resilient pad such that the locking features clear an outer face of the resilient pad and form ~~resilient pad is securely held on the inner clamp surface by~~ an interference fit therewith to securely hold the resilient pad on the inner clamp surface and prevent the resilient pad from readily being lifted off of the inner clamp surface ~~between the locking features and one face of the resilient pad~~.

2. (Original) The hanger of claim 1, wherein the resilient pad has a base section for contacting and gripping the garment and a pair of flexible flange sections formed at

each end of the base section, the openings being formed in the flexible flange sections.

3. (Original) The hanger of claim 1, wherein the locking feature at the distal end comprises an enlarged section.

4. (Original) The hanger of claim 3, wherein the locking feature is a rounded head that has edges that extend beyond the distal end of the locking post.

5. (Original) The hanger of claim 3, wherein the locking feature is a pair of slanted edges that come together to an apex, the edges having opposite free edges that define a locking shoulder that create the interference fit once the locking shoulder is inserted into the opening and clears the one face of the pad.

6. (Original) The hanger of claim 1, wherein the inner clamp surface has a raised platform that includes a peripheral lip extending therearound, the pair of openings being formed through a floor of the raised platform, the locking posts being arranged such that one locking post extends across one opening formed in the raised platform to permit a degree of flexing of the post.

7. (Original) The hanger of claim 6, wherein the locking post is an elongated ridge that is integral to the platform and extends across one opening from one edge of opening to another edge thereof.

8. (Original) The hanger of claim 7, wherein the locking posts are formed parallel to one another and to ends of the peripheral lip.

9. (Original) The hanger of claim 2, wherein the base section has a thickness greater than a thickness of the flange sections.

10. (Currently Amended) A garment hanger comprising:

a cross-bar having first and second ends;

a hook member coupled to the cross-bar to permit hanging of the garment hanger;

a first clamp assembly disposed at the first end of the cross bar and a second clamp assembly disposed at the second end of the cross-bar, wherein each of the first and second clamp assemblies includes first and second clamp members that are pivotably coupled to one another and urged toward one another by a biasing element; each of the first and second clamp members having an inner clamp surface that has a pair of locking posts extending outwardly from the inner clamp surface, each locking post having a locking feature formed at a distal end thereof; and

a resilient pad coupled to each inner clamp surface in a removable manner by inserting the locking features of the locking posts into and through complementary openings formed in the resilient pad such that the resilient pad is securely held on the inner clamp surface by an

interference fit between the locking features and one face of the resilient pad, wherein the resilient pad has a base section for contacting and gripping the garment and a pair of flexible flange sections formed at each end of the base section, the openings being formed in the flexible flange sections ~~The hanger of claim 2~~, wherein a shoulder is formed between the base section and each flange section, the locking feature being disposed between the shoulder and one end of the pad, and wherein an upper surface of the base section lies in a plane that is free of impingement by the locking feature.

11. (Original) The hanger of claim 6, wherein each locking post has a tapered construction.

12. (Original) The hanger of claim 6, wherein the locking posts has a width less than a width of the one opening such that an open slot is formed on either side of the locking post, the ends of the locking posts being integrally formed with a surrounding web of the platform.

13. (Currently Amended) The hanger of claim 1, wherein the ~~rear~~ first clamp member has a vertical wall and the ~~front~~ second clamp member includes a pair of clamp posts with cradle-shaped free ends that receive the vertical wall such that the front clamp member pivots about the rear wall.

14. (Original) The hanger of claim 13, wherein the vertical wall has a pair of stops formed at ends thereof to limit the degree of travel of the cradle-shaped ends along the vertical wall.

15. (Original) The hanger of claim 1, wherein the resilient pad is formed of a resilient friction material that comprises a block co-polymer having discreet block segments of styrene monomer units and rubber monomer units.

16. (Original) The hanger of claim 1, wherein a coefficient of friction of the resilient pad is sufficiently high to preclude movement under the weight of the garment when a normal clamping force is applied to the two clamping members to move them into a clamping position.

17. (Original) The hanger of claim 15, wherein the block copolymer has a linear styrene-rubber-styrene structure.

18. (Original) The hanger of claim 15, wherein the block copolymer has a radial $(\text{styrene-rubber})_n$ structure.

19. (Original) The hanger of claim 1, wherein the block copolymer has a diblock (styrene-rubber) structure.

20. (Original) The hanger of claim 15, wherein the rubber monomer unit is selected from the group consisting of butadiene, isoprene, ethylene/butylene or ethylene/propylene.

21. (Currently Amended) The hanger of claim 1, wherein each of the inner clamp surfaces has a raised platform that includes a peripheral lip extending therearound, the locking posts being formed along a floor of the raised platform, the platforms being formed on the respective ~~front~~ first and ~~rear~~ second clamp members such that in a clamping position, the platforms face one another and are substantially parallel to one another.

22. (Original) A garment hanger comprising:

a cross-bar having first and second ends;

a hook member coupled to the cross-bar to permit hanging of the garment hanger;

a first clamp assembly disposed at the first end of the cross bar and a second clamp assembly disposed at the second end of the cross-bar, wherein each of the first and second clamp assemblies includes first and second clamp members that are pivotably coupled to one another and urged toward one another by a biasing element; each of the first and second clamp members having an inner clamp surface that has a pair of flexable locking posts formed therein, each locking post having a locking feature formed at a distal end thereof, the locking feature having a substantially triangular cross section; and

a resilient pad coupled to each inner clamp surface in a removable manner, the resilient pad having a stepped construction, with a pair of locking apertures formed therethrough

in flexible end flange sections of the pad, the pad being coupled to the inner clamp surface as a result of inserting the locking features into the locking apertures such that the locking feature clears one face of the pad and forms an interference fit therewith to prevent the pad from readily being lifted off of the platform.

23. (Original) A garment hanger comprising:

a cross-bar having first and second ends;

a hook member coupled to the cross-bar to permit hanging of the garment hanger;

a first clamp assembly disposed at the first end of the cross bar and a second clamp assembly disposed at the second end of the cross-bar, wherein each of the first and second clamp assemblies includes first and second clamp members that are pivotably coupled to one another and urged toward one another by a biasing element; each of the first and second clamp members having an inner clamp surface that has a pair of openings formed therethrough with a pair of flexible locking posts extending at least partially across each opening; and

a resilient pad coupled to each inner clamp surface in a removable manner, the resilient pad having a garment contacting section and a plurality of locking apertures, one locking aperture receiving a locking feature formed at a distal end of the locking post so that a portion of the pad is pinched between the locking feature and the inner clamp surface such that it is securely held therebetween.

24. (Original) The hanger of claim 23, wherein the locking feature is mushroom shaped.

25. (Original) The hanger of claim 23, wherein the locking feature has a frusto-conical shape.

26. (Original) The hanger of claim 23, wherein the resilient pad comprises a base section that contacts the garment in use and a pair of flexible end flange sections where the plurality of locking apertures are formed.

27. (Original) The hanger of claim 23, wherein the locking post has a cylindrically shaped base and an enlarged head that acts as the locking feature.

28. (Original) The hanger of claim 26, wherein the resilient pad has a weakened region, defined in part by the locking aperture formed in the flexible end flange section to permit flexing of the end flange section in the weakened region.

29. (Original) The hanger of claim 23, wherein the resilient pad has a stepped construction defined by a first section that has a first thickness and is intended to contact the garment and a plurality of second sections that have a second thickness less than the first thickness so that when the locking post is received into the locking aperture such that the locking feature

pinches the portion of the pad, the locking feature lies below a plane containing an upper surface of the garment contacting section of the pad.

30. (Original) A garment hanger comprising:

a cross-bar having first and second ends;

a hook member coupled to the cross-bar to permit hanging of the garment hanger;

a first clamp assembly disposed at the first end of the cross bar and a second clamp assembly disposed at the second end of the cross-bar, wherein each of the first and second clamp assemblies includes first and second clamp members that are pivotably coupled to one another and urged toward one another by a biasing element; each of the first and second clamp members having an inner clamp surface that has a platform with a pair of walls formed at ends thereof, each end wall having an inwardly directed lip formed at a distal end thereof, the lips of end walls facing inwardly toward one another and extending over the platform; and

a resilient pad coupled to each inner clamp surface in a removable manner, the resilient pad having a flange formed at each end thereof for insertion underneath the lips of the end walls, the resilient pad being securely held on the platform by having each flange disposed underneath the lip which pinches the flange against the platform resulting in the pad being securely held on the platform.

31. (Original) The hanger of claim 30, wherein the inner clamp surface includes a pair of opposing side walls that are formed on opposite sides of the platform with the end

walls extending therebetween at the ends of the platform, the end walls limiting lateral movement of the pad, while the side walls limit up-down movement of the pad.